

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

12-8-21

Christmas Carol (Hymn @ Christmas)

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2 CK Play:

B. Slide3 Prayer: We pull out of *the madness of the holidays* & meditate on *God Your Redemptive Designs*. Take a minute and meditate on, **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** ... Make it a longing in your heart.

II. Slide4a THE HISTORY

A. It was **1st published** in **1744** in Charles Wesley's *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*, a little collection so popular that it was **reprinted 20 times** during Wesley's lifetime. [Charles & John were brothers started the *Methodist* Movement]

1. Charles (aka, *The Poet of Methodism/Christianity*) wrote about **6,500** hymns, which included *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*.

a) Slide4b To write **6,500 hymns** he would be writing at least **2 hymns a week**, every week for **50 years**, from his conversion in 1738 to his death in 1788.

B. Slide5a Charles Wesley considered Haggai 2:7 ...

1. *I will shake all the nations* (end times), *and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple* (*the treasures* - indicates a future period in which *all nations* will come to Jerusalem *to worship*). *I will fill this place with glory, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies* (The future temple will once again be filled with the glory of Yahweh).

2. **Background?** 18th-cent England was wracked w/*weak religion*, *rampant sin*, and often *a callous indifference to the suffering* of the lower classes.

a) He found himself surrounded by scenes of *homelessness, orphans, and squalid poverty*. **Thus**, Wesley penned a work that expressed a dear **hope** for Christ to **come again and set all things right**.

C. Slide5b "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*" has the quality of a petition - *a prayer that pleads for Christ to be among us*.

1. Wesley actually 1st wrote it as a **prayer** then adapted it into a **hymn**.
2. He specifically wrote it with the intent for people to **remember Advent** and **Christmas** as *commemorating the Nativity of Jesus* and *preparing for the Second Coming*.

III. Slide6 **THE CAROL/HYMN** (read it)

A. Slide7 Imperative verbs are used 6 x's (see **bold**)

1. **Come**, thou long expected Jesus

Born to set thy people **free**

From our fears and sins **release us**

Let us find our rest in thee

Israel's strength and consolation

Hope of all the earth thou art

Dear desire of every nation

Joy of every longing heart

a) Slide8 Yes **Israel**, but he also knows Jesus came to save *all peoples*, *see green*.

b) Slide9 Israel desired *joy, hope, & freedom* (all in 1st verse)

c) The **2nd verse** goes on to explain *what Jesus has, can/or will do* as the Savior of the world.

2. **Born** thy people to deliver

Born a child and yet a king

Born to reign in us forever

Now thy gracious **kingdom bring**

By thine own eternal spirit

Rule in all our hearts alone

By thine own sufficient merit

Raise us to thy glorious throne

a) [**Rule in all our hearts alone** - don't let forces of evil like *greed & apathy to suffering* rule in our hearts]

B. **Slide10** He also draws upon another cumulative technique, *the repetition of a single word for effect, the repetition of **born***. (4x's) (see light *blue*)

1. **Jesus' mission to a troubled world is revealed: *Born to set thy people free; Born thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king; Born to reign in us forever.***

C. **Slide11a POPULARIZED BY**

D. **Spurgeon** made a Christmas sermon in London in 1855 when he was 21 and included sections of "*Come thou long expected Jesus*" in it.

1. He did this to illustrate his point that very few are "*born king*" and that **Jesus** was the only one who had been *born king without* being a prince.

E. **Slide11b** It's believed the **last line** of the 1st verse may have come from Wesley being inspired by 17th century philosopher; **Blaise Pascal's** claim that "*There is a **God shaped vacuum in the heart of every person that cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator.***"

F. You can also check out **Christian metal band** (aka, White Metal, Jesus Metal, Heavenly Metal) *Wolves at the Gate*, did this hymn if you like *head-banger music* :)

G. **Application**

H. Charles Wesley offers us a poetic teaching that allows us to **apply the story of Christmas** to **our lives**.

1. Although we live in a different time than Charles Wesley, **the longings of people's hearts are just as deep**. **We long for security, love, relationships, meaning.**
2. **Slide12** To those who open themselves up to its message, this hymn identifies with that **longing at the deepest levels of our existence**. **Where there is no longing, there can be little meaning.**
 - a) Think about it, *the pain of loss, the poverty and sickness of the world, every rebellion against our Lord, has an expiration date!*
 - b) Actually, **Hope** is central to Christian experience.

3. Slide13 And where will our longing, our hopeful waiting lead us? **Where** is the ultimate home of our hope? In the final line Wesley takes us there: *“Raise us to thy glorious throne.”*

IV. Slide14a **WHY JESUS CAME**

A. *Born thy people to deliver. Born a child and yet a king. Born to reign in us forever. Now thy gracious kingdom bring.* This is why Jesus came.

1. Slide14b Jesus said, *Don't misunderstand **why I have come**. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.* Matthew 5:17
2. Slide14c Who owned a Sony Walkman? Why don't we have these anymore? Because it's been re-placed by *something far greater*. It's not that it was bad, **but something better has come!**

B. Slide14d Jesus to the 2 disciples on road to Emmaus, *When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would **suffer** and **die** and **rise** from the dead on the third day.* Luke 24:44-46

1. See the Bible is **unlocked** only by *the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus ...*

C. Think of *the Snake Story* of Num.21 (the people in the wilderness *complained about God, Mo, mana, food, water*. So the Lord sent fiery or poisonous serpents. Bite=die. They repent. Mo makes pole. *look & live*).

D. We have no idea until *gospel of John* that this was about **Jesus**.

1. Slide14e Jn.3:14,15 *And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.* Jesus the snake man.
2. This was a striking foreshadow of Christ being lifted up on the cross to save those who were dying of sin & looked to Him in faith. *Lifted up*

alludes to both the **crucifixion** and the **exaltation** of Jesus, in His death and resurrection.

E. **Note 2 things:** (1) The poisonous bite was **terminal** (2) Only **one cure** was provided.

F. **Look with faith!** **Not**, concoct some remedy. **Not** fight the serpents. **Not** even rebuke the serpents. **Not** make an offering. **Not** pray. **Not** look to Moses. **And especially Not** just *try a lot harder to be good...you might as well try to teach a snake to sing.*

1. All that we can do, all that was/is required is a **simple look of faith.**

2. Didn't even matter how many times they were bit, **or** how infected they were.

3. Like the **thief** on the cross, who merely **looked** to Jesus & said, **Lord, remember me when You come into your kingdom.** Jesus said to him, **Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**

a) Jesus took our **infected nature** upon Himself, bore our **venom**, & imparts a **new nature** to us.

4. **Slide15** Today, will you look to Jesus and receive His serum for your snake bite of sin?

G. **Prayer:** *Jesus the Messiah* was the **Hope** of Haggai, The **Hope** of Wesley, The **Hope** of ours.